Coming Campaign in the Balkans Promises to Be an Interesting and Highly Dramatic Struggle, With Politics the Leading Issue

Not Likely to End the War, But May Result in New Alignment of Belligerent Powers---Victory for Entente Allies Would Mean Extinction of Bulgaria and Turkey.

> By FRANK H. SIMONDS, Author of "The Great War."

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NLESS all signs fail, the next few months are to see the center of the world war shifted abruptly to the Balkans. Just a year ago Germany, victorious in all but the final moment of her Russian campaign, and having driven the Slavs back from the Carpathians and the Vistula to the Dwina and the Styr, was preparing for her great "push" to Constantinople. Today the allied effort is clearly concentrated upon an attempt to undo the work of Mackensen a

It is essential to perceive that this campaign, even if the allies derive the maximum of profit from it, will not win the war or exercise a decisive military influence upon the other fields, although its moral influence and its political consequences may be considerable. Take as a fair parallel Grant's campaign for Vicksburg, which aimed at separating the Confederacy into two parts by taking and holding the Mississippi line. The allies are operating for the possession of the Vienna-Constanti-

of the river from the bulk the Confederacy. A successful aled campaign will separate Turkey entral states and, incidentally, crush Bulgaria. Vicksburg did not end the civil war; it played only a In opening the great river to the north and closing it to the south he compared to the conseuences of opening the straits to the ally more important than that along

e Mississippi.

We see with absolute clarity that e first objective of the allies is to cut e Vienna-Constantinople railroad and olate the Turk. We perceive with milar clarity that this is but the st step in opening the Dardanelles di the Bosporus. When this is done I the problems of Russian munitionary will disappear and both Russia will disappear and both Russia t will disappear and both Hussia Rumania will immediately profit obtaining the allied markets for respectively. The allied markets for the wheat, oil and other products until this is accomplished will issia be actually delivered from the ation into which the Turk's endee into the war placed her.

Their failure was not ab-But if the road is closed again peril in some measure will be renew attack will not be aimed prima-rily at Gallipoli, but at Chatalja, at the base of the peninsula on which Con-stantinople stands, along the front where the Bulgarians were checked in 1913, through the lack of heavy artil-lery, and because of the support the Turks derived from their warships. In a word, the purpose of the allies is to cut the Vienna-Constantinople

In a word, the purpose of the allies is to cut the Vienna-Constantinople railroad first, thus isolating Turkey, then to attack Constantinople and Gallipoli from the land, not the water side, and, given their superiority of artillery and munitions, to force the eventual capitulation of the Osmanli forts and capitulation of the Osmanli forts Balkan situation, believed that the converse workers to the

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Sea of Marmora, the Dardanelles and succeed, and afivised the German em-the Bosporus. Beside these two pur-peror to abandon the Balkan campaign poses, the third, the liberation of Ser-and shorten his lines east and west to is relatively minor, although it first two. And even the of Bulgaria and the cutting kenhayn

Able to Squeeze Bulgaria.

allied situation was unpromising, beabove Saloniki. Here their superiority, vital railroad, what numbers have in numbers and guns was neutralized Bulgarians and their allies available to the Balkan campaign is acterist in the Balkan campaign is acteristic important than that along sisppi.

with absolute clarity that which gave the Bulgarians a great advantage and enabled them, reinforced by a few Austrian and German brigades, the beld head areas a number with little and the strength of the self-section of the section of the self-section of the section real difficulty. At all times there had been grave doubt in the minds of military observers as to whether Saloniki army could force the v of the Vardar and get back valley of the Morava in Serbia. But once Rumania came in the allies obtained a new and wide front on

The Bulgarians are now between two millstones, between the French, British, erating from Saloniki and the Russian oth by fleet and army, to force the and Rumanian troops operating in the solute until the Germans, forcing their way through Serbia, reached Stamboul and were thus able to open a route for many, Austria and Turkey can furnish a word, the new situation in the Bal-kans has made a demand for a new Austro-German army of very considerable size at the precise moment when the invasion of Transylvania has prothe invasion of Transylvania has produced a similar demand, this time from Budapest and not, from Sofia. These demands coincide with other demands they coincide with the need for fresh troops to defend Lemberg against the steadily advancing Russian armies and the claim on German reserves to replace the heavy losses that are being occasioned by the Anglo-French attack on the Somme. Finally, the Italian operations about Gorizia are calling for greater and greater attention from

"THE ALLIED MILLSTONE."

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cently, in which Bulgaria had to bear the attacks of four nations, single handed, there will be no disposition on the part of the people to wait for the last ditch or the forlorn hope.

If the Russians and Rumanians make any real progress in Bulgarian territory in the next few weeks, if Germany and Austria and Turkey are not able to prove that they can defend Bulgarian at the frontier, then it will be time to watch for a change in Bulgarian alignment. Moreover, the mement the Russo-Rumanian pressure in the Bulgar lands north of the main Balkan chain begins to be heavy the Bulgarians are bound to insist upon the withdrawal of Bulgar troops from Macedonia, just as the Hungarians are clamoring for the withdrawal of the Honveds from Russia and the Balkans at the present moment when the Russians are transfer to the Russians and the Russians at the present moment when the Russians are transfer to the state of the Russians are transfer to the Russians at the present moment when the Russians are transfer to the state of the Russians are transfer to the Russians are the nonveds from Russia and the Baikans at the present moment when the Rumanians are invading Transylvania. Such a withdrawal would enable Sarrail to move up from Saloniki with his great army toward Nish, along the Belgrade-Saloniki railroad, and if he were able to get to Nish the Vienna-Constantinople railroad would be cut and both Bulgaria and Turkey isolated from Germany and Austria, because the line of the Danube has already passed under Rumanian guns.

Turkey Needs Railroad.

he defense of the life line binding them to their allies likely to be less insist nt than that of the Bulgars. If the the Balkans the fate of the Osmanli is sealed, so far as Constantinople is con-cerned, and he realizes this perfectly cerned, and he realizes this perfectly. He can hardly hope to make much of a bargain with his enemies now, but he is sure to begin to make the best bargain he can the moment that all hope on the other side begins to vanish. And there is a strong Turkish element in Constantinople hostile to Enver and his German alliance.

We have, then, in the Balkan crisis, an excellent barometer of the larger situation. We have had a summer of ailied offensive operations, a summer in which there has not been one considerable German effort to seize the initiative. In this time there have been ever recurring demands for German re-

With two thrusts directed at the

On the other hand, there is no ques

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BUKHAREST

demands are addressed to Berlin from Budapest to save Transplyania. Ohter like demands come from Sofia and from Constantinople. Alongside these appeals lie the reports from the west front setting forth the casualty lists due to the Anglo-French offensives along the Somme. Conceivably Germany has still the reserves to answer all these demands, but there is no simple strongers and the property of the setting for the setting for the conceivably Germany has still the reserves to answer all these demands, but there is no simple strongers than President Poincare of France, Premier Briand and Gen. Brusling is low and the past few days cautioned against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente as well as the president Poincare of France, Premier Briand and Gen. Brusling is low at the subject to commander of the Russian and the past few days cautioned against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism on the part of the people of the entente against too great optimism of the people of the entente against too great optimism of the people of the entente against too great optimism of the people enormous losses in the two previous all these demands, but there is no sign of it that she has disclosed in recent events. Not even with Turk divisions has she been able to check Brussiloff's drive toward Lemberg. The Rumanian armies continue to flow through Transvivania practically unopposed. German counter attacks in Picardy have for service in the state of the man and Austrian regiments in the Macedonian line, and it is fair to esti-mate that they number 100,000, thus leaving 100,000 Bulgars for service in

orth. Until recently this northern was supported by many Turkish

Bulgaria is vital to the whole German nitted Bulgar armies to advance; the ast bank of the Vardar from Veles o Guevghell—these are inducements hat the Bulgars could have for changidea. If Bulgaria is conquered the road to the near east is cut. If Bulgaria is threatened with defeat and conquest

GERMANS MAY STRIVE TO OVERRUN RUMANIA. CHANCES OF GAIN BEING REDUCED ELSEWHERE; BIG EVENTS ARE EXPECTED IN THE BALKANS

French and British Make Tremendously Important Captures on Western Front.

(AISER'S FORCES SOON **MAY RETIRE GENERALLY**

Russians Continue Their Effort Toward Lemberg-Italians Score Against the Austrians.

BY OLIVER OWEN KUHN.

Such apprehensions as have arisen in the minds of entente nations during the week possibly Leaders of Allies' are due to

Foes in Conference. great conference of Gernanic leaders. The kaiser, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, First Q. M. Gen aspirations as to the immediate future; were discussed goes without question, else why was such a conference called? On the western front the Germans have wasted tens of thousands of lives of her soldiers in fruitless counter attacks. Not in recent weeks has a single gain of importance been registered, while on the other hand the allies have been slowly gnawing into the German positions daily until now the Teutons occupy anything but an enviable position on this front from Belgium to the Vosges. Thus it may be expected that a grand Teutonic offensive in the face of apparently recognized allied supe-

gas and turning the Balkan mountains, or it will move west along the Danube, aiming at Sofia. In either case its communications will be assured by sea or by the Danube. We may guess that this army will not get very far before there will be political disturbances in Bulgaria and possibly a very complete change in Bulgarian alignment. But we must assume also that in the very nature of the case Germany will make every effort to check the advance, for political rather than military reasons. If she can bring enough troops to this front and win a sufficiently complete success she will take the pressure off the Hungarians and compel the Rumanians to recall their troops from Transylvania to defend Bucharest and the Dobrudja. The first German operations about Tutracan and Silistria forecast just such a strategy.

Once more, as a year ago at this time. bobrudja. The first German operations about Tutracan and Silistria forecast just such a strategy.

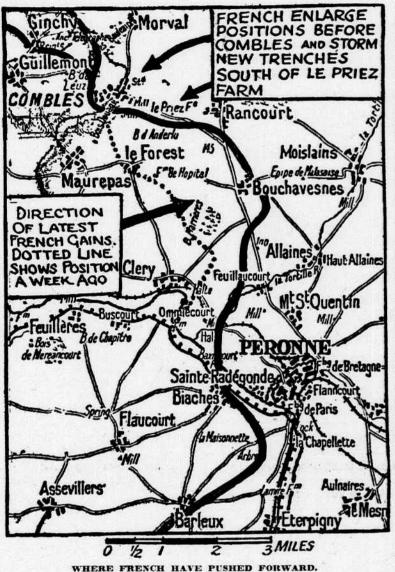
Once more, as a year ago at this time, Bulgaria holds the center of the stage. It is safe to assume that she will not desert her allies as long as she feels that they have an even chance of victory, because she will have to give up most of her Serbian conquests. If Rumania were defeated she might count on taking all the Rumanian seacoast, and she owes Rumania a lesson for the incidents of 1913. Finally, the Bulgar dream of hegemony in the Balkans, realizable in a measure if the central powers retain their hold in the peninsula, will disappear if the allies win and Bulgaria will be smaller than Rumania or Serbia. She may even be smaller than Greece, if Greece gets on the winning side in time.

But if Bulgaria deserts or is conquered then the collapse of the Austro-German influence in the Balkans and in the near east will be instant and the fall of Constantinople will not long be delayed. Incidentally the liberation of Serbia will be prompt and the gap in the circle of fire and steel about the central powers, opened by Mackensen a year ago, will be closed. The war has seen few more dramatic moments than thet which is now from transports under the fire of their Black sea feet. In this case, if these forces are of consequence, the Bulgarlan and Germanic line lies between two Russian armies in that section nearest would be absolutely necessary to the Black sea. Retirement toward the west would be absolutely necessary to the Black sea. Retirement toward the west would be absolutely necessary to the Black sea. Retirement toward the west would be absolutely necessary to the Black sea. Retirement toward the west and rear attacks from the enemy.

It is more reasonable to believe, however, that von Mackensen never would allow his forces to get in such a trap and that the Germans and Bulgarians are chiefly operating toward the Danube to the west. Should they continue their operations in this section they offer a menace to Bucharest and if it is true that the Teutonic war council decided that an attempt should be made to overrun Rumania the blow probably would fall from this direction or across

BOIS des FOUREAUS

WHERE BRITISH HAVE MADE CHIEF GAINS.



Germans and Bulgars port of Varna sive offensive. The allies undoubt-

May Be in a Trap. sea. This point lies far south of the purported Bulgar-German battle line in Dobrudja. Unless the German claims of having completely overrun Dobrudja are inaccurate, and the Russians have been

which and the Various From Volume 1 and the remains of the Various From Volume 1 and the remains of the Various From Volume 1 and the remains of the Various From Volume 1 and the remains of the Various From Volume 1 and the remains of the Various From Volume 1 and the remains of the Various From Volume 1 and Volum what may the Danube in that section of Rumania

power to press immediately into Bulgaria within the next few weeks in order that the Bulgarians will forced to lessen their pressure on Rumania. Furthermore, an allied invasion of Bulgaria is sure to cause greatable to push their way down the Black er discontent among the Bulgarian peosea coast, it is plainly evident that the Slavs have been able to land troops from transports under the fire of their Black sea fleet. In this case, if these forces are of consequence the Bulgaria has gained or will achieve in the present struggle may largely be offset and the people either demand cessation of the war or see their counforces are of consequence the Bulgaria has gained or will achieve in

To the Swift Will Fall Chief Immediate Successes in Southeast Regions.

ALLIES PRESS AHEAD ON MACEDONIA FRONT

Transylvanic Invasion Continues. Teutons and Bulgars Advance Further in Dobrudja.

other step than toward their side, and no matter what King Constantine per-sonally may desire to do, he is helpless

Should the government at any time see fit to take open sides with Germany the whole Hellenic kingdom would become a seething cauldron of revolt. King Constantine never could successfully lead a Greek army against the allies, for such a force would be opposed by another of the same nationality or an allied army would deal with the king and his followers, while this army of Grecian revolutionists would be utilized in the conflict being waged against their hated rivals, the Bulgarians. Bulgarians.

Premier Zaimis and his pr

ministry have stepped down. M tracopolus, who from the time the started, has been pro-ally, was i to form another cabinet. He demi

of territorial awards to Greece in case she aids them, having withdrawn such tenders as were made some months ago. The allies, however, will equip and munition the Greek army and let future events decide just what reward, if any, Greece should have. This doubt undoubtedly has delayed Greece's open espousal of the entente cause.

The Germans on the west front ap arently are unable to regain positions

v the French and British during the course of action, while the allied forces are daily storming the most formidable must be weighed carefully when one considers the present situation. Notare declared to have a million men fighting along the Somme, they have

the hope of reconquering lost ground, but today finds the French and British closer to their two chief objectives Peronne and Bapaume. These facts in-Peronne and Bapaume. These facts indicate that the Germans have lost what they once deemed their impregnable positions, and now must wage a new brand of warfare, that in more open country. The day of long-drawn-out trench fighting has passed in-so-far as the Somme region is concerned. Not since the fighting started have combating armies been forced to contest so bitterly in comparatively open territory. Developments of the past few

On the Verdun front the Germans have delivered several attacks at May Have Given Up invariably have

been repulsed Effort at Verdun. according to Paris. The fact that the Germans recently have transferred great forces of men from the Verdun front to the Somme would indicate that they have given up hore of seizing this fortress, which has proved such a stumbling block to Teutonic aspirations and

block to Teutonic aspirations and which has cost the lives of countless thousands of her men.

The Italians are reported to have already landed 50,000 men out of a contingent of 120,000 to be sent to hold down the battle line in Alsace. Portugal also will send 40,000 more, and these will be placed at the most advantageous points. Should the Italians undertake to hold down the Alsace and Lorraine section of the western battle front, the French will be able to withdraw many troops from these regions for employment in those sections where (Continued on Sixth Page)

BLACK-ADRIATIC SEA - DURAZZO SALONIK C Ш IONIAN ш 9 SCALE OF MILES SEA DFECANDIA

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